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PROCEEDINGS

June 26-July 1, 1916

FIRST GENERAL SESSION (Monday evening, June 26)

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH Annual Meeting of the American Library Association was called to order by First Vice-President WALTER L. BROWN, in the Auditorium, at Asbury Park, New Jersey, on Monday evening, June 26, 1916.

VICE-PRESIDENT BROWN: In opening the Thirty-eighth Conference of the American Library Association in its fortieth year, it is with extreme regret that the first official announcement has to be that of the absence of the President because of illness. We wish, however, to have it well understood that this meeting is Miss Plummer's meeting, for it was she who drew up the program, who secured the speakers and who has even written the presidential address which we shall hear tonight.

Miss Plummer has devoted herself without stint, notwithstanding her year of sickness and pain, to the interests of the Association. We feel under great obligation to make this meeting a success, and we hope that all Miss Plummer's friends will share with us this obligation so that we can send her word of a successful conference.

We are greatly pleased to have with us tonight Mr. M. TAYLOR PYNE, chairman of the New Jersey Public Library Commission, who has very kindly consented to offer us a greeting.

Mr. PYNE: It is a very great pleasure to me, ladies and gentlemen, members of the American Library Association, to bid you a very hearty welcome to the state of New Jersey. It has been a great disappointment to me and a real grief to all of you that Miss Plummer has been so very ill that she has not been able to be present. I hope in a short time she will be restored fully to health and strength.

I am asked to mention again what the secretary has already announced, that after this meeting there will be a reception in

the New Monterey at which I hope all will be present. I trust that the meetings here will be conducted with pleasure and profit and I am sure that the able committee who have charge of them have done and will do all in their power to make them a success. We of Princeton are looking forward to having you make us a visit next Thursday. We will give you as warm a reception as we can, but I trust you will not find it too warm, because the weather has a habit at this time of the year of making everything warm.

As a trustee of Princeton, of course I represent one type of library—the scholar's library, but as a public library commissioner tonight my interests, as yours, mainly lie in the other type—the people's library. Realizing as I do that this is the greatest auxiliary of the school, the college and the university, re-enforcing both, and appealing to a still greater constituency,—and everything that tends to make the library more easily accessible and more useful is of great value to the State,—I believe that this staff should consist of not only experts trained in library administration but also of men and women of wide general knowledge, broad sympathies and sufficient tact to enable them to act as guides and advisers of the public in its reading. A well-equipped, well-administered and well-used library is the greatest corrective against the ill-informed, superficial thinking which is the great curse of a country of universal suffrage. Trashy novels, flashy magazines, yellow journals are doing what they can to demoralize and dementalize—if I may use the expression—the minds of the people of this country, so that they are coming more and more to depend almost exclusively upon them for their opinions and their views of life. Surely that is what Jonah had in mind when he called on the Lord in his distress and said, "They who observe lying vanities, forsake their own mercy."

So it seems to me that the greatest work of the librarians of the present is not in the details of library administration but in the magnificent opportunity which is given them to direct the reading and to lead the minds of readers to those higher and better things which make life purer and happier.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: We certainly have full knowledge of the hospitality of New Jersey. Many of us have enjoyed it at Atlantic City and at State meetings, and notwithstanding all that we are promised at this meeting we still expect more because New Jersey always makes her hospitality more than she claimed.

We come now to the President's Address, which at the special request of Miss Plummer, will be read by the secretary.

SECRETARY UTLEY: The regret at the absence of Miss Plummer has already been voiced, and I can assure you that I too feel her absence very keenly. It has been a pleasure to work with Miss Plummer as president during the year, and we all share in the sorrow in knowing that she is ill; but we are likewise glad to hear that she is getting better. You will be interested to know that last Tuesday I had the pleasure of seeing her. I called on her for a few moments and found her looking well, in spite of the fact that she was too weak still to consider coming to be with us tonight. I asked her if she had a greeting which she could send us on this occasion, and she said, "Tell them I feel as guilty as a hostess who has invited friends to a banquet and is not there to help entertain them." You can yourselves realize how keen the disappointment is with Miss Plummer.

Before reading her address the statement must be made at her special request that the address is not in as polished and finished a condition as she would like to have it. I think you will not feel that these words are necessary, but I am saying them at her request. Miss Plummer wrote this address—she did not write it, but rather dictated it—from her bed of pain and illness and under those trying conditions I am sure you will feel that no apologies are

necessary for any lack of literary finish which Miss Plummer feels is in the address, but which I think you will have difficulty in finding, unless it be in the short-comings of the reader. Miss Plummer has taken for her address the subject,

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH

(See p. 111)

The VICE-PRESIDENT: Appreciating as we all must this fine and thoughtful address, I know you share with us the desire to send Miss Plummer a message to show that appreciation. I am sure there is no one in our number who can better voice this than Mr. Bowker, whom I should like to recognize.

Mr. BOWKER: Mr. Vice-President: It is my regretful duty to offer a resolution to be sent in the name of this body to our absent president as a night message, with the signatures of the vice-president and of the secretary, and I will ask the secretary to read the resolution which it is proposed you shall presently vote upon as the expression of your thought.

The secretary read the message, as follows:

Miss Mary W. Plummer, Chicago, Ill.

The American Library Association send to their absent president their affectionate sympathy and their high appreciation of her devoted service to the profession and to the Association. As a leader in library school development you have the gratitude of hundreds here present for whom you have cleared the way, and your achievements have contributed largely to the honor and dignity of the profession. The Association, while sorrowing at your absence, appreciate gratefully your efforts for the success of this conference and thank you for the inspiring presidential address which they have just heard.

Mr. BOWKER: Mr. Vice-President and fellow members of the American Library Association: It has more than once been the lot of this Association to miss from the annual conference the president of the year, but I think never under circumstances which we must all so regret. Miss Plummer has so devoted herself to her library

work for years that we pay in her absence the penalty for that devotion. She has sent her special apologies that she cannot be here as our hostess, and it is one of our regrets that we miss the gracious presence, the winning smile, the kindly word in which she typifies the eternal feminine, the ever womanly which represents so large a majority of this Association. Miss Plummer came to her library work from out the sweet sanctity of the Society of Friends, and from that brought perhaps two qualities which many of us who have been her intimate friends know, but perhaps not all of you—the quality of a quiet sincerity and the quality of force which often comes into noble causes from that society.

Next to Melvil Dewey, whose thought of the library school met at the start with such scoffing, not least from our dear scoffer of honored memory, Dr. Poole, Miss Plummer perhaps has done more for the development of that part of the inspiration of the profession than anyone else. It required some courage not only to propose a library school, as Mr. Dewey did, but to become a member of the first class in the first library school, as Miss Plummer did, and from that first class have come many whose names and whose work you recognize as leaders in this profession, first among them all—Mary Wright Plummer.

Perhaps most of you may not know Miss Plummer as she shows herself in that volume of poems, most creditable contributions to American poetry, not of the new sort, which she published in 1896. Those of you who have conducted small libraries know how much you owe to her for her "Hints to small libraries," which the American Library Association has published through successive editions. Those who are children's librarians have reason to be thankful to her for those charming books of travel, "Roy and Ray in Mexico," and the two children again in Canada, as well as for the delightful reworking of the stories of the Cid, which have come from her pen.

So throughout she has dignified the work of the librarian, the work of the teacher,

the work of the writer, in a united library service. I know that she is one whom all of you have especially delighted to honor. I know that no one could be more missed, especially in this year, than she, and I know that you will all unite with absolute unanimity in sending her some such expression of your real feeling, which I am sure, Mr. Vice-President, will be adopted by a rising vote, after others have said a word or two in further expression of your feeling.

Dr. HILL (Brooklyn Public Library): Members of the American Library Association: In rising to second the adoption of the resolution presented by Mr. Bowker I do so with mingled regret and sorrow; regret at the absence of the honored chief executive officer and sorrow because the absence has been occasioned by illness. I have known Miss Plummer for a long time as a trained librarian and as a trainer of librarians, and in both capacities she has attained the highest standard of proficiency. I cannot add to the effectiveness of the resolution or to the words of Mr. Bowker, but I am sure that I voice the unanimous sentiment of the Association in wishing for the speedy recovery of our president, and for her early return to her own chosen field of library activity.

The resolution having been unanimously agreed to by a rising vote, the vice-president declared the session adjourned, and the audience returned to the New Monterey Hotel (headquarters) for the delightful reception tendered by the New Jersey Public Library Commission and the New Jersey Library Association.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION (Tuesday morning, June 27, Auditorium)

Mr. CHALMERS HADLEY, second vice-president of the Association, presided.

Attention was called to the reports of officers and committees which had been printed in advance of the Conference and were distributed at this session. These reports included those of the secretary, treasurer, trustees of the endowment funds, the Publishing Board, and of the following

standing committees: library administration, library training, coördination, federal and state relations, book-binding, book-buying and work with the blind; and of the special committee on the Panama-Pacific exhibit.

(For these reports see p. 324 and following.)

Mr. Gould, of McGill University, emphasized the desire of the Committee on coördination for suggestions from members as to the practicability and desirability of the rules to govern inter-library loans, which were set forth in the report of that committee.

In the absence from the room of Mr. H. W. Craver, chairman of the Finance committee, the report was read by the secretary.

(See p. 356)

On motion of Mr. W. H. Kerr, the following telegram of greetings was sent to the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, then in conference in Philadelphia:

To Herbert S. Houston, President, Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, care The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. The American Library Association, in its Thirty-eighth Annual Conference, with over thirteen hundred delegates, representing eight thousand libraries, sends greeting and good will to the great organization of kindred spirits, the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, in session at Philadelphia. Both bodies are engaged in bringing ideas and truth to the American public. As servants of the whole public the librarians desire to render genuine assistance in the responsible work of truth in advertising. When advertising men find librarians can help them, will they straightway tell the whole world about it?

The secretary read the report of the nominating committee in which was presented the list of nominees for officers for the coming year, and announced that the election would be held on Friday.

Dr. ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK, librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, read a paper on

HOW THE COMMUNITY EDUCATES ITSELF

(See p. 115)

Mr. JOHN JAY CHAPMAN was unable to be present, owing to the tragic death at

Verdun, on June 24, of his son Victor Chapman, a sergeant in the Franco-American Flying Corps, but his paper on

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

(See p. 122)

was read by Mr. Henry N. Sanborn, secretary of the Indiana Public Library Commission.

Miss MARY OGDEN WHITE, of Summit, New Jersey, delivered an address on

DEMOCRACY IN MODERN FICTION

(See p. 126)

Mr. WILLIAM WARNER BISHOP, librarian of the University of Michigan, read a paper on

LEADERSHIP THROUGH LEARNING

(See p. 155)

The session then adjourned.

THIRD GENERAL SESSION

(Thursday morning, June 29, Auditorium)

The session was called to order by First Vice-President BROWN, who stated that the first matter of business was a proposed amendment of Section 2 of the By-laws to the Constitution, which had already received the approval of the Executive Board. At the request of the presiding officer the secretary read the By-law as it then stood, and the following as it would read if amended:

Sec. 2. At least three months prior to the annual meeting of the Association the Executive board shall appoint a committee of five, no one of whom shall be a member of the Board, to nominate the elective officers and other members of the Executive board, trustees of the Endowment fund, and such members of the Council as are to be chosen by the Association under the provisions of Sec. 14 of the Constitution.

This committee shall report to the Executive board, which shall, after adoption of the report, publish its nominations in the Bulletin at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the Association and shall place such nominations before the Association on a printed ballot which shall be known as the "Official Ballot." (Remainder of Section unchanged.)

On motion of Dr. Hill, and duly seconded, it was voted that the amendment be adopted.

The secretary read the following telegram of greeting, which had been received from the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, in session in Philadelphia:

The national educational committee of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World in conference at the University of Pennsylvania send hearty greetings and best wishes to the American Library Association in session at Asbury Park. We appreciate how the work that we are trying to do for better business is helped through the valuable service you are rendering to the business men of America by furnishing them authoritative business books and in placing before them classified information of every sort upon business subjects. In this great work we tender to you every assistance of which we are capable.

Mr. ROBERT GILBERT WELSH, dramatic critic of the "New York Telegram," read a paper on

MODERN DRAMA AS AN EXPRESSION OF DEMOCRACY
(See p. 143)

Miss JESSIE B. RITTENHOUSE, of New York, delivered an address on

THE NEW POETRY AND DEMOCRACY
(See p. 137)

Mr. JOHN FOSTER CARR, director of the Immigrant Publication Society, of New York, delivered an address on work with foreigners, taking as his title

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE WORK FOR
(See p. 149)

The session adjourned.

FOURTH GENERAL SESSION

(Friday evening, June 30, Auditorium)

Second Vice-President HADLEY, who presided, stated that before beginning the formal part of the evening's program Mr. Bowker had a matter of general interest to present.

Mr. BOWKER: It is understood that the librarian of the National Library of Mexico is one of the foremost in endeavoring to maintain and promote friendly relations between that republic and our own, and it seems proper that, without taking action which might be construed as anything that sounds partisan, this Association should send to him, in a way our colleague, its

best desires for the success of what he has, and I think all of us, have at heart; therefore this resolution is proposed:

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board be authorized to send Señor Luis Manuel Rojas, the Librarian of the National Library of Mexico, from the American Library Association, its earnest hopes for the continuing friendliness and the increasing intimacy and mutual appreciation between the people of the United States and the people of our sister republic of Mexico.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: You have heard the resolution presented by Mr. Bowker. What action does the Association wish to take regarding it?

Mr. GEORGE: Assuming, Mr. Chairman, that the resolution has been offered in the form of a motion, I would be very glad to second it.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. BOWKER: Mr. Vice-President and fellow members of the American Library Association: It is my happy fortune to be the representative—it is my unfortunate misfortune to be the sole representative at this meeting, of the men and women who forty years ago started the American Library Association. This meeting has been spoken of as the Thirty-eighth Annual Conference. In truth, the conferences have not been annual: had they been, this would have been the forty-first annual conference.

For a special purpose I will hark back for a moment to those early days. It was something more than forty years ago, in the spring of 1876, that Melvil Dewey, recently a student at Amherst College, and then assistant librarian of his college—he had already evolved, or begun to evolve, the decimal classification—came to New York for a consultation at the office of the "Publishers' weekly," then in Park Row, with Mr. Frederick Leypoldt and myself regarding the starting of a library journal. The earlier periodical had developed a department of library notes which we had thought might be further developed into a separate professional periodical, and Mr. Dewey, whose enthusiasm for library work was already active, desired to associate himself in such an enterprise which he

already had in mind. In the consultations between the three of us it was suggested that there should be an American library association. In 1853 the first library conference had been held in New York, with a large attendance, and with promise of an effective future. A number of resolutions and plans were adopted which prophesied in large measure the work which has since been accomplished or is under way. It was proposed to hold a meeting the next year and annually thereafter, but that organization lacked a Melvil Dewey to carry the thing through, and the second meeting was never held.

From us three, therefore, a call was sent out to ask if librarians generally would co-operate in calling a national conference, and that was met with not a little scoffing, particularly from that honored veteran whom I very often speak of as our dear scoffer, Dr. Poole, as to who these young people were who had proposed this national association; but the thing carried itself. An organization was begun at the meeting held in Philadelphia in September, 1876, the year when Mr. Cutter had published his famous Rules as a part of the great government work on libraries. Since that time events and estrangements have somewhat sundered old ties, but the continuing work of twenty-five years cannot be forgotten, and I think you will like to join, I am sure with unanimity, in sending messages of gratitude to those who can be reached now, and who took part in the beginning of the work which has reached such a wonderful culmination. I will ask the secretary to read two telegrams, which if they meet with your approval, it has been arranged shall be sent tonight to Mr. Dewey at Lake Placid and to the widow of Mr. Leypoldt at Scranton, and after that I will take two minutes more to tell you as to the survivors—the other survivors of the 1876 conference—to whom it is proposed to send a general message which will later be read.

The first telegram, addressed to Melvil Dewey, read as follows:

The American Library Association sends from this fortieth anniversary special

greetings to that one of its founders whose indomitable courage, energy and persistence assured the early and permanent success of the Association, and whose inventive genius in evolving the decimal classification and in initiating the library school has earned the world-wide recognition of the library profession.

That to Mrs. Leypoldt was as follows:

The American Library Association, on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, sends to you its appreciative recognition of Frederick Leypoldt's part in the formation of this Association and of his self-sacrificing labors in behalf of American bibliography.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT: Will all those in favor of these two resolutions please rise?

(The resolutions were adopted by a unanimous rising vote.)

Mr. BOWKER: At the 1876 conference there were present no less than 103 persons, men and women, of whom, however, only 67 became members of the American Library Association and were called charter members. The consecutive numbers on our roll do not represent quite the order of the membership, it being a relation with the treasurer which somehow governed the accession number. Of the 67, counting Mr. Dewey and myself, sixteen are certainly known to be living, and there are possibly a few more, perhaps making up twenty in all, of whom Mrs. Carr has no present knowledge. By Mrs. Carr's help we can present to you the brief list of the other fourteen.

Perhaps I may mention first of all a man whose name is unknown to most of you, who came to that first conference in his sixtieth year, a friend and associate of Mr. Larned in Buffalo, and who will presently, we hope, celebrate his hundredth birthday, Mr. William Ives, of Buffalo.¹ There came also our honored associate, Mr. Peoples of New York. From Boston came Mr. Griffin, then of the Boston Public, now assistant librarian of Congress. From Worcester there came Dr. Green, our Uncle Samuel, always of affectionate memory, and Mr.

¹Mr. Ives died at his home in Buffalo on August 21, aged 99 years, 7 months.

Barton, of the Antiquarian Society. From Lynn our ever-young lady Miss Matthews and her associate, Miss Rule. From Providence Mr. W. E. Foster, whose absence of recent years we old fellows have much deplored, and from New Haven Mr. Addison Van Name, still living in that city; from Philadelphia Dr. Nolan, who should have been with me at this time to help me in this representation, but who disappeared in his usual fashion on Tuesday; and Mr. Barnwell, still in Philadelphia, though retired; also Mr. Rosengarten, a library trustee, of whom we have since seen too little. From the West came Mr. Charles Evans, whose service to American bibliography you know, and who was at that time librarian of the Indianapolis Public Library. I must include also—and this is a name which I would not willingly omit—Mrs. Melvil Dewey, then Annie Godfrey. Her marriage is one of several with which the library association has been honored. To her who for some time spelled her name A-n-i D-u-i in the reformed spelling of her husband, and those others it is proposed to send tonight a message of greeting, for it seems a pity that the fortieth anniversary should pass without this recognition of affectionate memories on the part of an association which has grown into such an effective and remarkable membership from a not very large beginning.

The secretary then read the following telegram, which was sent in identical terms to the fourteen people named by Mr. Bowker:

The American Library Association, on the occasion of its Fortieth Anniversary, sends to those members of the first conference still with us in spirit, though absent from this meeting, its affectionate greetings, remembrances and thanks for their participation in the seed sowing which has produced such abundant harvest.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT: If there is no objection these resolutions will be adopted by consent. The chair has the privilege of communicating to you still another expression of felicitation issuing out of this anniversary. It is directed to Mr. Bowker himself. A number of our mem-

bers have asked me on their behalf to hand him this loving cup and to read to him in your presence the inscription which accompanies it. I do so gladly, for I assume your satisfaction with the incident will thus become part of our official records.

In presenting this cup, which is full of affection for Mr. Bowker, let me read the inscription on it:

"1876-1916. To Richard Rogers Bowker, friend of libraries and librarians, from members of the American Library Association. In admiration of his forty years of unique service to the Association in whose foundation he shared, at whose meetings he has been a constant attendant, to whose councils he has without obligation brought the wise judgment of a man of affairs, and whose work he has furthered in many practical ways by lavish gifts of his time and talent. Asbury Park, June 30, 1916."

MR. BOWKER: Mr. Vice-President and fellow members: Words are poor things, and tears are not in place. This comes to me with a glad surprise—for it is absolutely a surprise to me—and is therefore the more welcome. One could have no better reward after so many years than in reaping such a harvest of thanks as this cup of love represents; and for Mrs. Bowker, whom you have so pleasantly welcomed as a newer member, as well as for myself, I thank you from the depths of our hearts.

After this pleasant introduction the formal program for the evening was taken up. The first topic was a symposium on

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AS SEEN FROM THE CIRCULATION DESK

The speakers were Miss EDITH TOBITT, librarian of the Omaha Public Library; LOUISE PROUTY, Cleveland Public Library; CATHERINE VAN DYNE,¹ Newark Public Library and PAUL M. PAYNE, librarian of the Syracuse Public Library.

(See p. 276)

Miss MABEL WILKINSON, librarian of the Park County Library, Cody, Wyoming, was unable to be present, and Miss Sarah B. Askew, of the New Jersey

¹ Miss Van Dyne was unable to be present on account of illness, but furnished her paper which forms a part of the Proceedings.

Public Library Commission, read her paper on

ESTABLISHING LIBRARIES UNDER DIFFICULTIES (See p. 161)

Miss MARY S. SAXE, librarian of the Westmount (P. Q.) Public Library, gave a short memorial sketch of her uncle, John Godfrey Saxe, the centenary of whose birth has been observed this year.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO—RELATIVELY SPEAKING (See p. 299)

Mr. FREDERICK W. FAXON, chairman of the committee on travel arrangements, and formerly secretary of the Association, gave an illustrated lecture on

TIMES PAST (See p. 286)

delighting his fellow-travelers with many association-provoking scenes of conference places and personages from the Chicago meeting of 1893 to the Pacific tour of 1915.

Following the lecture the session adjourned.

FIFTH GENERAL SESSION

(Saturday morning, July 1, Auditorium)
First Vice-President BROWN presided.

The first paper of the morning was by Mr. FREDERICK C. HICKS, law librarian of Columbia University Library, on the subject.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS AFFECTED BY MUNICIPAL RETRENCHMENT (See p. 169)

Dr. E. A. HARDY, secretary of the Ontario Library Association, followed with a paper on

HOW ONTARIO MANAGES HER FREE LIBRARIES (See p. 181)

THE VICE-PRESIDENT: Are there any questions prompted by this interesting paper?

Miss AHERN: Mr. Chairman, I have not a question but I do ask the privilege of adding one word to what Mr. Hardy has said. I was not here when he began, but knowing Mr. Hardy as well as I have known him for these last fifteen or sixteen

years I am quite sure that he did not strike the note in his address which I should like to have had there, and which he so richly deserves. Mr. Hardy has been secretary of the Ontario Library Association from the first. He has been a very ardent admirer of and listener in the A. L. A., and there is a very large part of the progress and of the spirit of library progress in Ontario at least that is due to the personal effort and the personality of Mr. Hardy himself.

Mr. JOSEPH L. WHEELER, librarian of the Reuben McMillan Free Library, Youngstown, Ohio, read a paper on

THE LARGER PUBLICITY (See p. 175)

Mr. WILLIAM H. BRETT, librarian of the Cleveland Public Library, gave

AN ANALYSIS OF LIBRARY LEGISLATION (See p. 319)

In the absence of the chairman, Dr. BERNARD C. STEINER, the secretary read the report of the Committee on resolutions.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The American Library Association desires to express the pleasure with which the days of the conference have been passed at Asbury Park in its thirty-eighth annual conference, and our satisfaction with the selection of this city as a place of meeting. Ample accommodations have been provided, surroundings have been attractive and good weather has fortunately fallen to our lot.

It is difficult to single out the persons who contributed to the success of the gathering, so many have co-operated toward this end, yet we feel that we may well name several individuals and organizations whose services stand out in a marked manner:

(1) First of all, we thank the Honorable James A. Bradley for the use of the Auditorium, without expense to the Association, as the place in which to hold our sessions.

ASBURY PARK CONFERENCE

(2) We so greatly enjoyed the pleasures given us by the tickets issued through the Department of Publicity of the city of Asbury Park that we wish to thank that Department and the enterprises represented by these tickets for their courtesy and for the opportunity to obtain so much enjoyment in our leisure moments.

(3) The New Jersey Public Library Commission and the New Jersey Library Association deserve our sincere thanks for the delightful reception tendered us on the first evening of our conference, and we return them our appreciation and gratitude.

(4) We recognize also with gratitude the careful and successful attention to details shown by the local committee of arrangements under the able chairmanship of Miss Edna B. Pratt, and the untiring efforts to have all members become personally acquainted with each other which were put forth by the committee on introductions efficiently directed by Miss Sarah B. Askew.

(5) The Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce on Friday afternoon through an automobile ride displayed to us the charms of the New Jersey coast, and throughout the entire conference have showed numerous courtesies to our members, all of which we acknowledge with thanks, and with the assurance that they have added much to the success of the meeting.

(6) Mr. M. Taylor Pyne, chairman of the New Jersey Library Commission and Dr. E. C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton University, were most helpful in arranging our visit to Princeton Thursday afternoon. It was a delight to visit that renowned institution of learning and we have a high appreciation of their hospitality.

(7) Finally, we gratefully recall the interesting and helpful addresses to which we have listened from the following able persons not members of the Association: Miss Mary Ogden White, Mr. John Jay Chapman, to whom we send our sincere sympathy upon his recent sad bereavement, Miss Jessie B. Rittenhouse, Mr. John Foster Carr,

Mr. Robert Gilbert Welsh, Dr. Albert Shiels and Dr. H. H. Wheaton.

BERNARD C. STEINER,
GERTRUDE E. ANDRUS,
J. T. GEROULD.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the report of the Committee was adopted.

The following resolution, passed by the American Association of Law Libraries, was read:

RESOLVED: That we, the members of the American Association of Law Libraries, hereby extend our thanks and appreciation to the American Library Association for the privileges enjoyed through our affiliation with that organization.

The newly organized Russian Library Association sent the following message of greeting:

The Russian Library Association, recently incorporated at Moscow, at its first organizing meeting this 15/28 May resolved:

To greet the A. L. A. as the oldest library association in the world and to express our deep admiration for the great achievements of the American libraries, due to their librarians.

MME. L. HAFFKIN-HAMBURGER, President,
A. KALISHEWSKY, Vice-president,
A. POKROVSKY, Secretary.

From the Punjab Library Association, Lahore, India, came also a message of greeting, signed by eight fellow librarians of the antipodes, including our fellow-member, Mr. Asa Don Dickinson.¹

THE SECRETARY: During the past year the hand of death has taken from us some of our most useful and honored members, whose names and brief records are found in the necrology, a part of the Secretary's report. There are two names in that list which it is thought wise by the committee on resolutions to mention especially in minutes which have been prepared. The first relates to the passing of our friend Dr. George T. Little, librarian of Bowdoin College, and the other to our veteran and beloved member, Dr. John Thomson, librarian of the Philadelphia Free Library.

¹ These messages from Russia and from India were unfortunately delayed in the mail and arrived too late to be read at the conference, but are here, nevertheless, made a part of the official record.

JOHN THOMSON

The American Library Association has heard with sorrow of the death on February 23, 1916, of John Thomson, A. M., Litt. D., after a long and trying illness which he bore with characteristic fortitude. The Association desires to place on its records a minute of its appreciation of the ability and standing of its associate as a librarian and of his worth as a man.

In the history of the extraordinary development of public libraries in America the achievement of Dr. Thomson merits emphasis. The institution which he directed as librarian for twenty-three years was chartered in 1891 and began its service to the public in 1894 with 1,500 volumes arranged in two small rooms in the corner of the City Hall. The subsequent growth of the Free Library of Philadelphia is mainly due to the enthusiasm, the industry, and the mental equipment of Dr. Thomson.

His faculty for enlisting the personal interest and co-operation of those with whom he was associated was of enormous value to the institution over which he presided. It secured the munificent gifts of Messrs. Carnegie and Widener, the devotion of his Board of Directors, the affection of his administrative staff, and the loyal support and confidence of the public.

Of wide culture and diversified attainments, the honorary degrees conferred on Dr. Thomson by the University of Pennsylvania and Ursinus College were well-merited recognitions of his services to the world of letters.

When he was forced to relinquish his work twenty-seven branches had been established in the County of Philadelphia in which, and in the main library, 500,000 volumes are stored, with an annual circulation of more than 2,000,000 books. It lends a special pathos to the record that he who had done so much for the advancement of the institution did not live to see even the beginning of the palatial building designed to serve as the center of the library system.

Generous, sympathetic, and practically helpful, Dr. Thomson made friends in every walk of life. The affectionate regard entertained for him by the many members of this Association is now united to a heart-felt sympathy for his family in their irreparable bereavement.

GEORGE T. LITTLE

Dr. George T. Little, librarian of Bowdoin College, whose life came to its earthly termination August 6, 1915, had been a member of this Association for many years, and had made important contributions to its proceedings. His administrative ability, his fine scholarly instincts, his rare graciousness of manner all combined to make him one of the Association's most loved members. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his bereaved family and to the institution which he had so long and so worthily served.

These minutes were by consent made a part of the official record of the Conference.

The secretary read the report of the tellers of election, showing that the following officers had been elected:

REPORT OF THE TELLERS OF ELECTION

Total number of votes cast, 171.

President

Walter L. Brown, librarian Buffalo Public Library. 156 votes.

First Vice-President

Harrison W. Craver, librarian Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh. 155 votes.

Second Vice-President

George H. Locke, librarian Toronto Public Library. 164 votes.

Members of Executive Board

(for three years)

Josephine A. Rathbone, vice-director Pratt Institute School of Library Science, Brooklyn, N. Y. 156 votes.

Arthur L. Bailey, librarian Wilmington (Del.) Institute Free Library. 163 votes.

Members of Council

(for five years)

Mary F. Isom, librarian Portland (Ore.) Library Association. 157 votes.

Willard Austen, librarian Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. 159 votes.

J. C. M. Hanson, associate director University of Chicago Libraries, Chicago. 158 votes.

Gratia A. Countryman, librarian Minneapolis Public Library. 160 votes.

Linda A. Eastman, vice-librarian Cleveland Public Library. 162 votes.

Trustee of Endowment Fund

E. W. Sheldon, trustee and treasurer New York Public Library. 158 votes.

PRESIDENT BROWN: The feeling of personal obligation which this must carry to anyone to whom it comes is, it seems to me, overshadowed by the appreciation of the responsibility, of the obligation, which it carries with it, and it is something which cannot be expressed by words or by promise; it can only be shown in accomplishment, and we hope that something may come from that. I feel deeply, as I am sure the members of the Executive Board feel, that we should like very much to have the desires and wishes of the Association, of the members of the Association, very freely expressed. At every conference we hear more or less, always in an indefinite way, of certain things which the

members would desire to have the Association do or do differently; to put upon the program of the conference some work which they think may have been overlooked by the Association; or that they think that certain sections have not had the voice they should have had; or that certain persons of whom they know, although better equipped than those selected to speak upon certain topics, have not been recognized as would have been best for the Association. Almost all of these suggestions come in such an indefinite way that it is impossible to take advantage of them, and we do wish that people would not hesitate to send direct to the officials of the Association suggestions of this sort. I am sure they are eager to do what the Association desires to have done. The suggestions which may be made possibly could not be acted upon at the time, but we certainly should have them on record and be better able to feel the pulse of the Association through the expression of the individual members, and we sincerely hope that this year no one will hesitate to send in anything of this kind. I thank you.

The Thirty-eighth Conference held in the fortieth year of the American Library Association is now adjourned.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

FIRST SESSION

A meeting of the Executive Board of the American Library Association was held at the New Monterey Hotel, Asbury Park, N. J., June 26th.

Present: Messrs. Brown, Hadley, Craver, Putnam, Bostwick, Dudgeon and Ranck.

The following committee on resolutions was appointed: Bernard C. Steiner, Gertrude E. Andrus and J. T. Gerould.

It was voted that the election of officers be held on Friday, June 30th, and that the polls be open from 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. William Teal and H. E. Roelke were appointed tellers of election.

The report of the Committee on nominations was received, adopted and ordered posted on the official bulletin board.

A communication was read from Dr. Frank P. Hill recommending that Section 2 of the By-laws to the Constitution be so amended that the nominating committee be appointed at least three months before the date of the annual meeting instead of one month, and that the report of the committee on nominations instead of being posted on the official bulletin board at least 48 hours before the election be printed in the "Bulletin of the American Library Association" at least one month before the elec-